

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended) A modular vehicle, comprising:

~~a standardized vehicle platform;~~

a plurality of fixation sites along said platform, said fixation sites comprising standardized interconnection means for any of mechanical, electrical, and fluid interconnection to ~~with any one or more of a plurality of~~ specialized functional modules;

said fixation sites being located along said platform at intervals to readily accept at least two said modules simultaneously, where

each said module is sized as a standardized fraction of the total area of said platform, with

said platform accepting a plurality of combinations of said modules, with the total area of the modules comprising each said combination totaling no more than the area of said platform; and

~~that are readily attached to said standardized platform via said interconnection means;~~

~~said fixation sites being located along said vehicle platform at standardized intervals to accept one or more of said modules; and~~

a computer implemented control and communications protocol communicatively provided throughout said platform for recognizing any of said module's presence, identity, capability, and function, and for configuring said modular vehicle accordingly.

2 (original) The vehicle of Claim 1, said platform further comprising:

a service trough extending along said vehicle from a first vehicle location to at least a second vehicle location, said service trough providing a pathway for any of mechanical, electrical, communications, and fluid sources.

3 (currently amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, further comprising:

a dedicated path about said platform for effecting individual control of said modules.

4 (original) The vehicle of Claim 1, further comprising:

a computer implemented vehicle operating system for controlling said modules.

5 (original) The vehicle of Claim 1, said fixation sites comprising:

a plurality of custom interfaces for any of contact closures, lighting, power, control, and interface to computers on board one or more of said modules.

6 (currently amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, said computer implemented control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for recognizing any of said module's personality and location.

7 (currently amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, said platform further comprising:

a plurality of specialized operator stations, each of said stations having dynamically assigned thereto one or more specialized ~~module-related~~ functions of any of said modules.

8 (currently amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, said computer implemented control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for controlling vehicle operation and configuration, both in accordance with a current vehicle ~~module-complement~~ of said modules and in accordance with vehicle resources and performance specifications.

Claims 9-13 (canceled)

14 (new) The vehicle of Claim 1, said computer implemented control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for acknowledging any said module, and for performing a background calculation for any of said module weight, balance, and power consumption.

15 (new) A modular vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle platform;

means for accepting at least two special purpose, self-identifying modules simultaneously on said vehicle platform in a mix and match fashion to provide said vehicle with a desired functionality for a particular application;

a central control system within said vehicle for communication with, and identification and control of said special purpose modules; and

a plurality of sites at standardized intervals along said platform that each provide a common connection for mechanical, electrical, and fluid communication for said modules.

16 (new) The vehicle of Claim 15, said fixation sites defining fractional locations along an overall platform extent, wherein said platform receives a plurality of said modules, wherein said modules have an extent that is equal to, or that is a fraction of, said platform extent, and wherein any number of modules having a total, combined extent that is less than or equal to the extent of said platform may be attached to said platform at any given time.

17 (new) The vehicle of Claim 15, wherein said central control system within said platform determines a unique identification associated with each of said special purpose modules to any of update said module, unlock functions in installed but inactivated module feature sets, and accept new modules.

18 (new) The vehicle of Claim 15, said central control system further comprising:

means for any of assessing any of said module weight, power consumption, size, and functionality; determining whether a complement of modules fit within design limits of said platform; and dynamically configuring a user interface to express functionality of each of said modules installed on said platform.